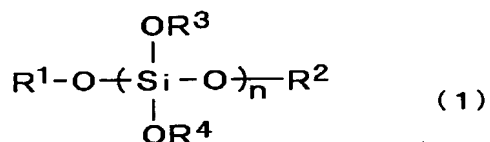


ABSTRACT

A coating composition curable by active energy rays which composition can form an transparent inorganic cured film having an excellent appearance, a mar resistance, and film adhesion properties is provided. The coating composition contains a siloxane compound (A) obtainable by the hydrolysis and condensation of an alkyl silicate expressed by the following general formula (1)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an acyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, respectively, and n indicates an integer from 3 to 20, and a cation polymerization initiator (B) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays. A method for forming a protective film by applying the coating composition on the surface of a plastic substrate and then irradiating the composition with active energy rays to form the protective film is also provided.